

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled).

12. (New) An apparatus for cutting fish and fish fillets into slices comprising;
a cutting unit for cutting the fish/fillets into slices made relative to a horizontal plane;
a feeding unit having means for feeding the fish/fillets to the cutting unit, means for collecting and processing data on the fish/fillets having means for registering a length of the fish/fillet relative to a feeding direction and/or a weight of the fish/fillet, the feeding unit having an adjustable plane on which the fish/fillet is placed and fed forward, means for automatically adjusting and setting an angle of the plane, relative to the horizontal plane, responsive to the collecting and data processing means, continuously during cutting, the angle set as a function of the length and/or the weight of the fish/fillet for cutting the fish/fillet into a plurality of slices having an equal length for a given thickness, the apparatus having gripping means for removing each cut slice from the cutting area.

13. (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a sensor unit is placed at a distance relative to the cutting unit and opposite to the feeding direction for registering a beginning and an end of each fish/fillet.

14. (New) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the sensor unit is a photocell.

15. (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the gripping means comprise at least one jaw connected in a pivotal manner around an axis.

16. (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the gripping means comprise at least one jaw part which is displaceable in a linear manner.

17. (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising securing elements for securing the fish/fillet during cutting.

18. (New) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the securing elements are wheels/drums having a periphery in which barbs are mounted which engage and secure the fish/fillet.

19. (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the automatic angle adjustment means comprise a microprocessor.

20. (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the means for setting the angle of the plane comprise a motor and a spindle to which the plane is mounted.

21. (New) A method of cutting fish and fillets into slices made relative to a horizontal plane comprising;

placing a fish/fillet on a feeding unit and conveying the fish/fillet to a cutting area;

feeding the fish/fillet onto an angle adjustable conveyor in the cutting area;

setting the angle adjustable conveyor at a given angle in relation to the horizontal plane, continuously adjusting the angle relative to each slice to provide each slice with a uniform length for a given thickness;

feeding the fish/fillet a given first distance until a sensor is activated;
activating the cutting unit for horizontally cutting the slice;
removing the slice from the cutting area, then, repeating the feeding, adjusting and cutting steps for each cut made thereafter to provide a plurality of slices of uniform length for a given thickness.

22. (New) The method according to claim 21, further comprising using a gripping device to remove the slice from the cutting area, using a combined linear and rotating movement of the gripping device from a start position to an end position.

23. (New) The method according to claim 22, further comprising, from the end position, returning the gripping device to the start position while moving the fish/fillet forward the given first distance.

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24. (New) The method according to claim 20, further comprising placing the plurality of slices into packaging, moving the packaging for a given second distance synchronously while moving the fish/fillet for the given first distance.